

Appln. No. 10/624,040

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1800

IV. Remarks

In this Amendment and Response, claims 1, 3, 8, 12, 13, and 14 are being amended. Dependent claim 6 is being cancelled and re-presented as independent claim 18 and the dependency of claim 12 is being amended appropriately. Accordingly, after entering this Amendment and Response, claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 18 remain pending. Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claim 15. Applicant also acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 6 and 12 if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of any base claims. Accordingly, claim 6 is being cancelled and re-presented in independent form as independent claim 18. Also, the dependency of claim 12 has been amended accordingly. In view of the above amendments, Applicant submits that claims 12 and 18 are allowable and requests such action.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 8, 12 and 13 because of cited informalities. Applicant has amended claims 3, 12 and 13 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. In regard to claim 8, Applicant has added the language "*each of the antenna nodes further comprising a phase delay element adaptable*

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to affect a delay in a communication signal" to claim 8 to provide antecedent basis for the phrase "*the delay*" and to clarify the meaning of the phrase "*the delay of at least one of the antenna nodes to be adjusted*". Accordingly, Applicant submits that the objections to claims 3, 8, 12 and 13 are now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 as being unpatentable over Staehlin et al (US 4,891,651) in view of Ehrenberg et al (US 6,630,912) under 35 U.S.C.103(a). Applicant has added the phrases "*formed from a plurality of aligned subplates*" and "*each of the subplates*" to claims 1 and 14. Neither Staehlin or Ehrenberg individually disclose or suggest a plate of light channel material formed from a plurality of aligned subplates with a plurality of antenna nodes supported on the top surface of each of the subplates, nor would this combination have been obvious to one skilled in the art in view of these two references. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection under §103 be withdrawn as to amended claims 1 and 14.

Applicant also submits that Applicant's dependent claims i.e., original claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 17 are patentable for at least the same reason as the claim from which they depend, although each of these dependent claims contain features that further distinguish them from Staehlin and from Ehrenberg, and the combination thereof, and render them patentable.

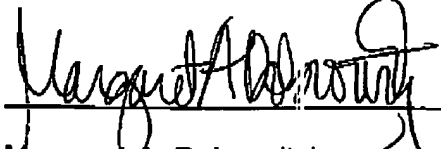
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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are novel and patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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